

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, CI, AR

SUBJECT: R/V HERO CLEARANCE REQUEST, MAY - JULY 1977

REF: SANTIAGO 1725

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES STATUS REPORT OF SUBJECT CLEARANCE WHICH ARRIVED CURIOUSLY WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO REQUEST REPORT AT REQUEST OF NSF POLAR OPERATIONS. NSF STATED IT NEEDED INFORMATION ON LIKELIHOOD OF GOC APPROVAL OF CLEARANCE SO THAT IT COULD SCHEDULE SHIPYARD PERIOD FOR R/V HERO. IF GOC APPROVAL LOOKED UNLIKELY OVERHAUL WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR AN ARGENTINE PORT INSTEAD OF CHILEAN AS NOW PLANNED.

2. DEPT. IS CURIOUS IF NSF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN IN
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CONTACT WITH EMBASSY THEREBY INSTIGATING REFTEL. DEPT. KNEW THAT NSF WAS CONCERNED ABOUT GOC APPROVAL BUT FELT THAT PROCESS SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE PRODDING GOC. ALSO, DISCUSSION IN REFTEL CONCERNING 6 MONTH LEAD-TIME ON CLEARANCE REQUESTS WAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH NSF POLAR. ON THIS PARTICULAR CLEARANCE DEPT. HAD REQUEST FROM NSF IN NOV 76 BUT DELAYED SENDING

UNTIL FEB 77, WHICH WAS QUESTIONED BY NSF. DEPT. PREFERS

TO SEND REQUESTS ABOUT 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE TO DECREASE CHANCES OF REVISIONS AND AS A MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY. WHEN R/V OPERATORS CONTACT BOTH THE DEPT. AND EMBASSY FOR SERVICES WITHOUT CLOSING THE COMMUNICATION LINKS IT RESULTS IN WASTED EFFORTS AND CONFUSION. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE CLARIFY SEVERAL ISSUES RAISED REFTEL:

(A) REFTEL STATES NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARANCE REQUESTS BUT DELAYS ARE BEING CAUSED BY OFFICE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS. IT APPEARS THAT OSPA IS ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARANCES.

(B) STATEMENT THAT FUTURE CLEARANCES IN THE "CANAL" AREA WILL DEPEND ON NAVAL ACTIVITIES AND QUALITY OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS IS PUZZLING. THE QUALITY OF THE NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS SHOULD BE A KNOWN QUANTITY. IT APPEARS THAT THE QUALITY OF CHARTS IS BEING MADE A VARIABLE WHICH WILL BE ASSESSED EACH TIME A CLEARANCE IS MADE.

(C) PARA (2) OF REFTEL REFERS TO REFTEL (B) WHICH IS NOT NOTED ON REFTEL.

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4. STATEMENT IN PARA (3) REFTEL, CONCERNING RECEIPT BY SIEVERS OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE EMBASSY NOTIFICATION, IS VALID BUT CAN BE EXPLAINED. SCIENTISTS WILL OFTEN SEND RESEARCH PROPOSALS TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN HOST COUNTRIES TO GENERATE INTEREST. VERY OFTEN THE FUNDING FOR THESE PROPOSALS ARE NOT APPROVED AND THE SCHEDULING IS NOT FIRM. FOR THESE REASONS THE R/V OPERATOR AND THE DEPT. WILL NOT SEND OUT THE FORMAL CLEARANCE REQUEST UNTIL MOST OF THE VARIABLES HAVE BEEN SATISFIED. HOWEVER, IF THE OPERATOR DECIDES TO FORWARD A RESEARCH PLAN WELL IN ADVANCE IT IS QUITE ACCEPTABLE TO US FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WITH HOST. THIS SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO SIEVERS.

5. PARA (6) OF REFTEL ADDRESSES THE EXPLANATION OF SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH METHODS. BEFORE DEPT. SENT CLEARANCE REQUEST TO EMBASSY, DEPT. CONTACTED NSF FOR BETTER DESCRIPTION THAN THAT ORIGINALLY PROVIDED SO WHAT YOU RECEIVED WAS ACTUALLY AN IMPROVE-

MENT. NATURE OF THIS RESEARCH INVOLVING TAKING

ROCK SAMPLES FOR GEOLOGIC STUDY ETC. SEEMED TO PRECLUDE
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH METHODS. IN FUTURE
DEPT. WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE BEST INFO AVAILABLE BUT
IS LIMITED BY INPUT FROM INSTITUTIONS.

6. REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF QUESTIONS RAISED PARAS (2)
AND (3).
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